PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government issued advertisement in leading newspapers on 2.10.2000 inviting Expression of Interest (EOI). The Advisors for the transaction have received EOI from certain prospective partners. For Government to realize the best price, the less a bidder knows the better, about who and how many rivals he is bidding against. Government therefore shall not confirm or deny either the number or identity of potential bidders. Moreover, in terms of the initial announcement, bidders can alter their alliances right up to the stage of filing the final technical bid. The final decision will be taken keeping in view all factors and issues.

Disinvestment of Oil PSUs

1480. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment of oil PSUs was on the agenda of the one-year road map for disinvestment approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment;

(b) if not, whether there were any differences among the Ministries concerned;

(c) whether the opinion of global advisors appointed by Government in the matter of disinvestment in various sectors has been obtained by now; and

(d) if so, what is the precise advice thus obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The consideration of proposals for disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings including Public Sector Oil Companies is a continuous process. The Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment had, therefore, considered from time to time various proposal regarding Public Sector Oil Companies. Views of all

Ministries/Department concerned are considered appropriately before a decision in regard to a specific CPSU or proposal is taken. In order to improve the long-term viability of the stand-alone refineries and strengthening the business synergies among Public Sector Oil Companies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG), the Government has, in September 2000, approved the following restructuring of the PSUs in petroleum and natural gas sector through strategic alliances:

(i) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) would buy the entire shareholding of Government of India (GOI) of 55.04% in Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL) and make KRL its subsidiary;

(ii) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) would buy the entire shareholding of GOI of 52.5% in Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) and of 74.46% in Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) and make them its subsidiaries;

(iii) BPCL would buy 19% of equity of Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) from IBP and make NRL its subsidiary;

(iv) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) would buy 10% of the NRL equity from the unsubscribed protion of NRL equity capital; and

(v) The valuation of shares for the sale of Government holdings in KRL, CPCL, BRPL and NRL shall be done by MoP&NG in consultation with Ministry of Finance. The process of determination of prices has been taken up.

(c) and (d) The Advisors for the transactions are appointed normally after a decision in regard to a particular Central Public Sector Undertaking is taken by the Government. The advisors are mandated to advise the Government in the matter of implementation of specific decisions only.

Apprehensions Over Sale of IBP

1481. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Petroleum had expressed concern over sale of IBP;

(b) whether apprehensions were subsequently cleared; and